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Engineering Excellence

Forest Service honors four for innovation, service, excellence

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Portland, Dec. 29--Four Forest Service employees have been honored by their agency for superior skills, service to their peers, and other contributions by the Pacific Northwest Region of the USDA Forest Service, says Regional Forester John Lowe.

Jerry L. Coleman, a civil engineer in the agency's regional office in Portland, Oregon, received the region's "innovator of the year" award for 1995. Coleman is a staff specialist who provides professional engineering services for road development projects to field employees throughout Oregon and Washington. However, his technical, training, and work-process improvement efforts have paid off for projects from office remodeling and recreation site construction to a uranium mine clean-up effort.

He is noted for an array of accomplishments, including training, cost-saving, and partnership efforts that save taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars, while making the complex construction contract system much more efficient and effective.

Electrical engineer Stephen Sichau, who also works in the Portland headquarters office, received the award for technical engineer of the year. He was nominated for the award by a team of peers from field and headquarters offices in Oregon and Washington.

As the regional electrical engineer, Sichau provides staff assistance for developing standards, procedures and policies for the electrical engineering phases of design, construction operations and maintenance of facilities. He also has specific facility design and contract management responsibilities.

He is honored for keeping the agency at the "cutting edge" of computer technology and electrical engineering. His peers in the field note that his work is often "five to ten years ahead of normal, accepted practice."

Douglas B. Macdonald, assistant forest engineer at Willamette National Forest, is honored as the region's "managerial engineer of the year." The nomination cites his efforts -- during a time of major work-force reductions within the Forest Service -- to help both the agency and the employees make a difficult transition, while still fulfilling exceptional program management responsibilities.

Macdonald has a special talent for recognizing employee skills and enhancing them, as well as a genuine concern for people. He is much respected as "an excellent mentor and role model."

John Dillingham, zone engineer at Waldport Ranger District in Siuslaw National Forest is honored as regional "engineering technician of the year" for 1995. He is cited as "a shining example of the engineering work-force in the future."

He is recognized for his outstanding job in facilitating the transition to ecosystem management in the Forest Service. He is honored for the twin traits of initiative and teamwork in implementing a "road assessment" protocol that allows the ranking of risk that roads pose to soil, water, and fish resources.

In addition, he developed creative contract types to implement the 'Jobs in the Woods' program, and has worked to encourage the employment of displaced timber workers by making a special effort to reach out to the community with information and training assistance.

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